

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 VIENTI 02045 201239 Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 INRE-00 IO-12 AID-20 IGA-02 AGR-20

TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCI-06 COME-00 INT-08 FRB-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 L-03 /116 W

----- 099282

P R 201135 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3137

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 2045

FOR NAC AGENCIES

BANGKOK FOR RED

MANILA FOR USADB

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, EFIN, LA, TH

SUBJECT: RED: MEKONG: PROPOSED ADB TA FOR

CASIER SUB PROJECT

REF: (A) MANILA 2867; (B) BANGKOK 4136

SUMMARY: AS RLG IRRIGATION SERVICE UNABLE PROVIDE FUNDS OR HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGE EXISTING PROJECTS, WE HAVE DOUBTS REGARDING UTILITY OF ANY STUDY LEADING TO IMPLEMENTATION LARGE IRRIGATION PROJECT. SUGGEST CONSIDERATION ADB TA INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL OF SEVERAL DRAINAGE PROJECTS IN VIENTIANE AREA. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTEL B PARA 2 IDENTIFIES DIKING REQUIREMENT AND REGIONAL EFFECTS (E. G., FLOODING IN THAILAND) IF AREA FULLY DIKED AS ONE IMPORTANT CONSTRAINT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VIENTI 02045 201239 Z

IMPLEMENTATION CASIER SUD AS PIONEER PROJECT. REFTEL A PARA 4 REITERATES SAME CONSTRAINT. BELIEVE ISSUE OF FLOOD PROTECTION MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE ANY RESOURCES ARE COMMITTED TO CASIER SUD DEVELOPMENT.

2. MORE SERIOUS CONSTRAINT IS THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT AND MANPOWER RESOURCES OF THE RLG IRRIGATION SERVICE THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED IMPLEMENT NEW, LARGE IRRIGATION PROJECT. RLG TECHNICAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, PLANNING AND DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND WATER MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY IS SEVERELY LIMITED. RLG IRRIGATION SERVICE, DUE TO SOME LACK OF FUNDS, AND SCARCE HUMAN RESOURCES, IS ALREADY HAVING DIFFICULTIES MANAGING 800 HECTARE THA NGONE PROJECT AND 2400 HECTARE NAM TAN PROJECT. RLG IS STILL HEAVILY DEPENDENT UPON FOREIGN DONOR ASSISTANCE FOR BOTH FUNDING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THESE EXISTING PROJECTS.

4. US EXPERIENCE WITH WIDE- SPREAD IRRIGATION EFFORTS IN LAOS HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING. AFTER REVIEW LAST YEAR OF US ASSISTED IRRIGATION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, USAID CONCLUDED THAT NO NEW PROJECT STARTS COULD BE MADE BECAUSE FULL RLG MANPOWER RESOURCES (AND US SUPPORT TO THEM) WOULD BE NEEDED TO ASSURE UTILIZATION AND PROPER FUNCTIONING OF SYSTEMS ALREADY BUILT.

5. AS AN ALTERNATIVE WE SUGGEST CONSIDERATION ADB TA TO INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL AND FEASIBILITY OF UNDERTAKING DRAINAGE PROJECTS IN VIENTIANE AREA. FOR EXAMPLE, DONGKALUME AREA LOCATED SE VIENTIANE NEAR ENTRANCE NAM NGUM INTO MEKONG OFFERS POTENTIAL RECLAIM 5-6,000 HECTARES. SOILS GENERALLY LOWER LYING AND BEST SUITED FOR PADDY RICE CULTIVATION. DRAINAGE SYSTEMS MAY OFFER MEANS RECLAIM LARGE LAND AREAS WITH GOOD SOILS WITH MINIMAL PROBLEMS OF MANAGEMENT. ALTHOUGH ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF DIMINISHED FISHERY RESOURCE VERSUS NEW AGRICULTURAL LAND GAINED WOULD RELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 VIENTI 02045 201239 Z

QUIRE CAREFUL STUDY. DRAINAGE PROJECT WOULD

BE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL PIONEER PROJECT SINCE
IT MAKES APPROACH TO MAJOR PROBLEM SHARED BY
RIPARIAN COUNTRIES HITHERTO NOT SYSTEMATICALLY
STUDIED, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.

6. AGREE REFTEL B PARA 3 EXPRESSION OF DOUBTS
ABOUT UTILITY OF PROPOSED CASIER SUD STUDY AS
PART OF PIONEER PROGRAM AND URGE SERIOUS CON-
SIDERATION ADB TA TO INVESTIAGE POTENTIAL
DRAINAGE PROJECTS IN VIENTIANE AREA.
GODLEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI02045
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730336/aaaaifiz.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 MANILA 2867, 73 BANGKOK 4136
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971222
Subject: RED: MEKONG: PROPOSED ADB TA FOR CASIER SUB PROJECT
TAGS: EAGR, EAID, EFIN, LA, TH
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BANGKOK
MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005